

Mill Street Books

2026 Holiday Gift Guide

Dear Reader,

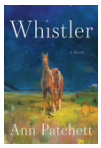
Thank you for a making this a remarkable year at the shop! We welcomed many authors to town, embarked on new projects and partnerships and of course, read a lot of really great books.

The new year will mark the store's 30th anniversary, so stay tuned for celebrations, plus our inaugural literary festival coming in June 2027.

Love, your Local Bookseller Team

STAFF PICKS

Ann's Picks



Whistler
Ann Patchett
Signed First Edition! *A story that reminds us of the preciousness and power of connections that defy time.*



Your Breath in Charcoal
Nicholas Herring
For fans of Niall Williams. Full of humour, tears and wonderfully imperfect characters.

Sarah's Picks



The Forest Year
Ethan Tapper
Perfect for the nature lover on your list: a guided adventure into the northeastern forest and its monthly changes.



Yesteryear
Caro Claire Burke
One of the year's most contentious books, and my personal favourite. Yesteryear gripped me from the start and hasn't let go!

Julia's Picks



Switzy
Emma Cline
Two of my favourite qualities in a novel: darkly funny AND deeply moving. A truly mesmerizing portrait of an unravelling mind.



Black Bag
Luke Kennard
A struggling actor accepts the role of a lifetime–and it's not what you think. If you have a penchant for the absurd, you'll love Black Bag!

Tegan's Picks



The Knave and The Moon
Rachel Gillig
A fantasy-filled follow-up to the Knight and the Moth, with plenty of wit, tension, and gothic atmosphere.



The Unselected Journals of Emma M. Lion
Beth Brower
A joy to read from beginning to end, with a charming cast of characters.

Julie's Picks



Mad Mabel
Sally Hepworth
A twisty tale of justice, redemption that was funny, sad, entertaining and surprising all the way through.



The Midnight Train
Matt Haig
A book that pulls you in and makes you reflect on your own life experiences and appreciate the moments more

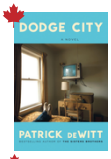
FICTION



Eliza Sunshine
Michelle Good
A family saga following three generations of Cree women and the storytelling tradition that connects them.



The Birthing Tree
Amanda Peters
A woman confronts buried family secrets, lost love and the fragile future she alone must protect.



Dodge City
Patrick DeWitt
A rollicking novel about a young man on a cross-country road trip, fleeing the draft for the safe haven of Canada.



Solace in Winter
Mary Lawson
In the small town of Solace, winter brings a series of encounters that will shake up lives forever.



An End in Itself
Terry Fallis
A parable that imagines a world where literature rules, and one writer discovers that success can be the strangest of fictions.



Exit Party
Emily St. John Mandel
A breathtaking novel of doubles and shadow worlds as a man disappears from an LA party and a woman searches for answers.



Asbestos
Sebastien Dulude
Stand By Me meets Knausgaard: an explosive 1980s coming-of-age story in a hardscrabble Quebec mining town.



The Wild Beneath
Kelly Anderson
A spellbinding story of soulmates, homecoming and the ancient bonds that tie us all to the natural world.



Gaining Ground
Joan Barfoot
A reprinted classic, this is a meditation on living on your own terms that calls to anybody who has ever wanted to escape.



Stations
Louise Kennedy
A gorgeous novel about the terrible—and sometimes redemptive—power with which the past hovers over the present.



Ply: A Novel
Hernan Diaz
A novel that questions the place of technology in modern life, with a plot that grabs both heart and mind.



American Hagwon
Min Jin Lee
A contemporary epic about ambition and moderation, lust and loyalty, personal dreams & familial duty.



Partita
Barbara Kingsolver
A story of a life-changing love affair, wrapped up in the greatest romance of all: our eternal human longing for art and beauty.



The Things We Never Say
Elizabeth Strout
With elegance and insight, a novel that takes one man's fears and loneliness and makes them universal.



Country People
Daniel Mason
An exploration of marriage and parenthood, the power of stories, and connection in a fragmented world.



O Now!
Niall Williams
A new story set in the small Irish town of Faha, exploring love, loss, and the "why" of life.



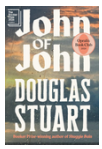
Sophie, Standing There
Meg Mason
A tender and hilarious novel about heartbreak and the journey from loneliness towards love.



Fallow
Sarah Anderson
A wacky yet surprisingly tender story about a young woman who signs up to be the world's first in-house corporate surrogate.



The Radiance
Ayad Akhtar
When a hit-and-run shatters more than his body, a writer is plunged into a spiritual awakening he can't tell from madness.



John of John
Douglas Stuart
A young man returns to his Hebridean island home, and the fragile relationships he left behind.



Peck & Peck
Bonnie Garmus
A story of a young man whose life takes a turn when he is hired by the world's most prestigious poetry journal.



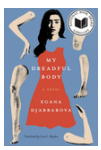
Stitched
Eli McCann
A novel described as one part Schitt's Creek, one part Golden Girls, set in the cutthroat world of competitive quilting.



Love, Like Apples
Jeff Zentner
The story of a puppeteer and the great love that defined his life, set against the backdrop of 1970s NYC.



The Fifth Year
Marlen Haushofer
A reprinted translation of a German novel, following five-year-old Marili through the seasons of a year on her grandparents' farm in the mountains of Austria.



My Dreadful Body
Egana Djabbarova
A dazzling debut about a young woman's vexed coming of age in a traditional Azerbaijani community in Russia.

Historical Fiction



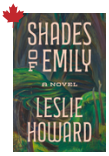
Every Secret Thing
Susanna Kearsley
A riveting story of intrigue, WWII espionage, and long-concealed murder that can no longer remain buried..



The Winter Witch
Jennifer Chevalier
Inspired by Les Filles du Roi, a novel that examines how lies and ignorance can lead to witch hunts in any society.



Mistress of the Persian Boarding House
Marina Nemat
A moving portrait of the bonds between women who choose each other as family.



Shades of Emily
Leslie Howard
A multigenerational story of love, ambition and breaking with convention, inspired by the life of Emily Carr.

Wild People Quiet
Tara Gereaux
Explores one woman's decision to hide her Métis identity in a small prairie town in the 1940s.

Mystery & Thriller

Not A Word
Linwood Barclay
A man's world is upended after he stumbles upon a grisly crime scene in the family home in this chilling thriller.

Getting Away With Murder
Shari Lapena
A twisty novel that probes the lives of the haves and have-nots with questions of morality, greed and envy.

Miss Wolcott's Ghost
Louise Penny
The latest installment in Penny's riveting and bestselling Inspector Gamache series.

A New Kind of Clean
Iain Reid, Elle Foumbi
Philosophical horror for modern times, about what an aspiring actress is willing to give up in order to make her dreams come true.

The Heights
Ian Rankin
Murder comes to London's most exclusive high rise in this thriller from the iconic bestseller Ian Rankin.

Holiday Romance



Setting the Stage for Christmas
Tanya Boteju

A sizzling, sweet queer rom-com about a theatre director who must hire the woman who broke her heart.



A Christmas Inn, Maine
Aaron Kyte

Former book editor meets charming small-town contractor in this sparkling queer rom-com.



Little Shop of Merry & Bright
Jenny Bayliss

This cozy, low-spice holiday romances puts a contemporary spin on A Christmas Carol.



In Every Future, It's Us
Katie Naymon

A New Year's Eve game pushes lifelong best friends to change their lives forever in this sweeping romance.



Twelve Loves of Christmas

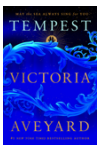
Countdown to Chrismas with a delightful advent calendar of twelve sealed holiday love stories by beloved romance authors.

Fantasy & Sci-Fi



The Sorceresses of Sky Serpents
Eden Robinson

A bold, apocalyptic fantasy inspired by the Indigenous cultures of the Pacific Northwest.



Tempest
Victoria Aveyard

A romantic fantasy epic like no other in which a fallen noblewoman faces off against her former love in a brutal war for the high seas.



Threshing Day
Rebecca Yarros

A collection of stories tied to the bestselling *Empyrean* series, set in the competitive world of a military college for dragon riders.



A Court of Splintered Harmony
Sarah J. Maas

Romance, danger, and intrigue await you in the breathtaking sixth book in the *ACOTAR* series.



A Parade of Horribles
Matt Dinniman

It's off to the races in the explosive 8th book in the Dungeon Crawler Carl series.

NONFICTION – Biography & Memoir



Summerland
Helen Humphreys

A brilliant memoir about the dreams and desires passed down through three generations of a family.



Into the Breach
General Wayne Eyre

A riveting memoir of war and peace from Canada's former top soldier, chronicling a 40-year military career.



Humanitarienne
Kirsten Johnson

The memoir of a bold, brave global health expert working in some of the world's most volatile places.



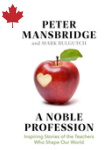
Black Bear
Trina Moyles

A dazzling memoir about a woman's coexistence with bears in the boreal forest and a singular story of sibling loss.



Penelope
Paul Bochner

The true story of an injured, abandoned fawn and the man who nurses her back to health.



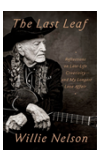
A Noble Profession
Peter Mansbridge, Mark Bulgatch

Inspiring true stories of the teachers who shape our world.



Opioids & Organs
Arizona O'Neill

A gutting graphic memoir of a daughter's loss, and an honest look at Canada's organ donation industry.



The Last Leaf
Willie Nelson

An icon shares his wisdom about creative flourishing, and the union with the love of his life, Annie.



An Unexpected Life
Gloria Steinem

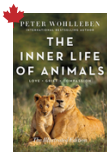
A portrait of Steinem's early life as an activist and a glimpse at the next chapters in the fight for equality.



True North
Paul Theroux

The acclaimed travel writer turns his gaze to Canada in this sweeping personal journey.

Science & Nature



The Inner Life of Animals
Peter Wohlleben, Jane Billinghurst

A visually stunning journey into the world of animal emotions.



Birds of a Feather
Don Gunn

A book that shares the charm of backyard birds, reminding us why they are worth protecting.



Earth Rise
John Larsen, Jeremy Hansen

The dramatic story of Artemis II, told from the perspective of astronaut Jeremy Hansen.



In Your Garden
Jean-Martin Fortier

Grow more food, with more confidence - right in your own backyard! By the author of *The Market Gardener*.



Book of Birds
Jackie Morris, Robert MacFarlane

A dazzling celebration of birds that reimagnes the field guide for a new generation of nature lovers.



Why Women Grow
Alice Vincent

Explores women's unique relationship with gardening, especially through times of hardship.



The Butterfly Season
Lea Korsgaard

The memoir of a year spent tracking every species of butterfly in Denmark.



The World Beneath Our Feet
Frank Ashwood

A vivid tour into the subterranean realm that sustains all life above the soil surface.



Be More Bird
Candida Meyrick

Illuminates the ancient, worldwide art of falconry and its urgent relevance for the modern mind.



The Best Journey in the World: An Antarctic Story
Kim Stanley Robinson

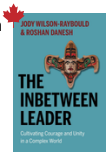
A journey that weaves memoir, photography, and antarctic adventure.

Current Issues



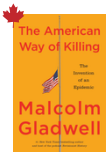
Reclaiming Canadian Sovereignty in a Ruptured World
Bob Rae

Twenty leaders address urgent questions Canada's future.



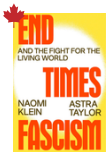
The Inbetween Leader
Jody Wilson-Raybould, Roshan Danesh

A how-to guide for leadership in a time of paradox.



The American Way of Killing
Malcolm Gladwell

Gladwell's most urgent book yet: a provocative investigation of America's epidemic of gun violence.



End Times Fascism
Naomi Klein, Astra Taylor

A scathing investigation into the apocalyptic thinking of the contemporary far right.



Housing Inc.
Leilani Farha

Writing from the centre of global housing debates, Farha reckons with a crisis decades in the making.



Unreliable Boyfriend
Chrystia Freeland

An insider account of how Western plutocrats maneuver power from behind closed doors.



The Reverse Centaur's Guide to Life After AI
Cory Doctorow

A short, provocative guide to what's good, bad, and stupid about AI.



Hyperscale
Paris Marx

An eye-opening account of how the data center boom is pushing our planet past its breaking point.



The Seabird Trials
Briony Penn

Reveals the fragile wonder of seabird life, the great cost of oil dependence and the enduring importance of evidence and truth.



The Rise and Fall of the Artificial State
Jill Lepore

A sobering account of how technology has corroded global democracy.

History

Wars of Conviction
Tim Cook, Adrian Shubert, Marcel Martel

A riveting history of Canada's transnational fighters.

Courage and Grit: The Legacy of Canada's Bomb Girls
Barbara Dickson

A history of the intrepid women who served on the home front during WWII.

True Patriot Love
Carol Off

A passionate, hopeful examination of who we are and where we're going as Canadians.

Ghost Stories of the Great Lakes
Mark Leslie

The unknown is alive in the depths of the great lakes. It calls to us like the relentless waves lapping the shores...

Operation Sparrow
Jason Bell

The never-before-told, true story of the spies who tricked Hitler and won World War II.

Ripples of War
Michael Petrou, Tim Cook, Andrew Burtch

How military service has shaped veterans, their families, communities, and Canada itself.

Redwood
Ben Macintyre

The thrilling story of a Russian double agent with a desperate secret—and the key to stopping a nuclear apocalypse.

The Age of Alchemy
Kit Chapman

For readers of Bill Bryson: how mystical alchemy transformed into the field of modern chemistry.

The Sea King and the Sorceress
Neil Price

An intimate, continent-spanning human journey through the Viking world.

A History of the World in Twelve Beans
Joel Broekaert

An exploration of the role legumes have played in shaping civilizations.

Ideas & Inspiration



The Inner Winter
Asha Frost
Invites us to honor our inner winter by slowing down, listening deeply, and returning to the natural rhythm of the seasons.



Women, Walking
Jane Farrow, Zahra Ebrahim
Explores women walking: from everyday strolls that let the mind breathe to ambitious journeys that test courage and resolve.



Phone Rules
Luc Rinaldi
Inspiration and practical advice to reset our relationship with our phones so we can raise healthier kids and re-engage with life.



Sleeping Beauties
David Byrne
A brilliant reckoning with how breakthroughs in the arts and sciences get forgotten, and how they get rediscovered.



The Cozy Commonplace Book
Miranda Mills
A literary anthology that celebrates life's comforts and joys, both big and small.



Joy
Maira Kalman
A luminous collection of prose and paintings that reveals how joy persists, even in the darkest of times.



How to Winter
Kari Leibowitz
A blend of science and cultural insights for cultivating a positive "wintertime mindset," to vanquish the winter blues.



How Lucky Am I
Christian Watson
This poignant, gorgeously illustrated book explores the ups and downs of existence and discovers the makings of a meaningful life.



The Tao of Pooh
Benjamin Hoff
In the company of Winnie the Pooh, discover how ancient Taoist principles can lead to a happier and more harmonious life.



Convent Wisdom
Ana Garriga, Carmen Urbita
A cheeky history-meets-self-help book that dives into the wild & wise lives of 16th- and 17th-century nuns.

Music & Media



Sorry, We're Funny
Kliph Nesteroff
The definitive history of how Canadian comics (politely) took over the comedy world.



I'll Believe in Anything: The Making of Heated Rivalry
Jacob Tierney
A collection of annotated scripts from the biggest cultural sensation of the year.



Guitar Women
Sue Foley
Intimate conversations with women who shaped the guitar's sound and story.



Even the Good Girls Will Cry
Melissa Auf der Maur
An openhearted, clear-eyed memoir of '90s rock by the bassist of Hole and The Smashing Pumpkins.



Backbeats
John Lingan
A journey through the history of rock and roll, told through the lives of fifteen iconic drummers.

Sports



Game Day
Doug Maclean, Greg Oliver
From former NHL GM and bestselling author of *Draft Day* comes an insider's look at the toughest job in sports.



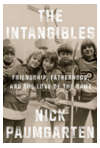
Gushue
Brad Gushue, Stephen Brunt
A revealing memoir from one of Canada's most beloved athletes—and one of curling's greatest champions.



Just A Girl
Cassie Campbell-Pascall, Sean Fitz-Gerald
A rare, raw look at the relentless spirit that has driven one of the greatest athletes in Canadian history.



The Echo
Barry Blanchard
A legendary alpinist returns to the places where weather, will, and luck decide everything...and the consequences echo for years.



The Intangibles
Nick Baumgarten
A memoir of an all-consuming lifelong obsession with hockey, its tribe, and its unreasonable demands.

Pets



Fierce Attachments
Rosemary Sullivan
Explores the bond between cats & humans, and the story of Sullivan's own beloved felines.



Cats: A History
Rod Phillips
An elegant study of human-cat history and how we live with animals whom we see as living by their own rules.



Animals Taught Me Everything
Pam Houston
Explores what a wagging tail and soaring wings can teach us about a life well lived.



A Literary Dog for Every Day of the Year
Tara Richardson
For dog & book lovers: an anthology of quotes and poems from classic literature.



Vanity Fur
Alison Friend
An imaginative and charming collection of over 300 stickers of Friend's irresistible animal portraits.

For the Foodies in Your Life



Mary's Comfort Classics
Mary Berg
Break out your stretchy pants! Mary Berg is back with her coziest book yet.



Garde Manger
Chuck Hughes, Christopher Merrick
A glimpse into the legendary Montreal restaurant, with 80 unforgettable recipes.



The Mon Lapin Cookbook
Marc-Olivier Frappier et al.
A celebration of food, wine & the small Montreal restaurant that found international acclaim.



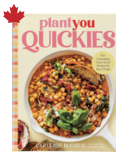
Cookie Box
Michelle Lucas Larving, Miranda Keyes
Celebrates the timeless tradition of sharing homemade cookies, with a modern lens.



Everything Delish
Jamie Milne
Take the intimidation out of home cooking with this collection of bold recipes.



The Best of the Best
Ricardo Larrivee
The essential collection of Ricardo's most loved, tested and perfected 5-star recipes.



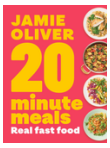
PlantYou Quickies
Carleigh Bodrug
A go-to guide for fast, easy, plant-based cooking on days when you feel like doing anything but.



Simple Too
Yotam Ottolenghi
Bring Ottolenghi's innovation to your everyday with 135 new recipes for breakfast, lunch, dinner and dessert.



The Big Book of Dinner
Melissa Clark
175 any-night recipe and lessons to make cooking easy, intuitive & joyful.



20 Minute Meals
Jamie Oliver
120 quick, tasty meals for every night of the week, no matter how busy you are.

villager



support women artists one piece at a time

puzzles designed by canadian women artists, never AI

Join us for festive after-hours Candlelight Shopping!

Every Friday in December

5–8pm



2027: THE YEAR YOU JOIN A BOOK CLUB?



We host 3 monthly book club groups, each with its own unique spirit.

- Original Book Club
- Global Book Club
- Book Club with Julia

We welcome new readers every month!

Visit our website to learn more

Children's Picture Books



The Little Ghost Quilt's Winter Surprise
Written by Riel Nason, illustrated by Byron Eggenschwiler



A Very Munsch Christmas
Written by Robert Munsch, Illustrated by Michael Martchenko



Santa Canuck
Written by Katherine Snowden, illustrated by Kelsey Marshalsey



The Christmas Book
Written by Katherine Woodfine, Illustrated by Lizzy Stewart



The Bear Cubs and the Christmas Wish
Written by Zemanel, illustrated by Emilie Michaud



The Wise Pickle
Written by Sarah Howden, illustrated by Sabina Hahn



A Door is to Open
Written by Kyo Maclear, illustrated by Julie Morstad



Rebecca
Written by Kate Beaton, Illustrated by Sydney Smith



Sage & the Snowshoe Express
Written by Louise Bradford, illustrated by Maya McKibbin



King of the Castle
Written by Heather Smith, illustrated by Andrea Armstrong



Gruffalo Granny
Written by Julia Donaldson, illustrated by Axel Scheffler



The Chairs
Written & illustrated by Britta Teckentrump



I am a Spicy Nugget
Written & Illustrated by Loryn Brantz



Henri & Miko: Winter in Bosk Olivette
Written & Illustrated by Rebecca Green



The Sweater
Written by Larissa Theule, illustrated by Teagan White



Story Rug
Written by Sophie Blackall, Illustrated by Phoebe Wahl



Leina and the Haunted Forest
Written by Myriam Dahman & Nicolas Digard, illustrated by Julia Sarda



Twas the Night Before Christmas
Written by Clement Clarke Moore, illustrated by Jon J. Muth



The Oak Tree
Written by Julia Donaldson, illustrated by Victoria Sandoy

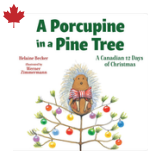


Song of the Cedars
Written by Robert Macfarlane et al., illustrated by Paula Teran Ospina

Baby & Toddler



The Hockey Song
Written by Stompin' Tom Connors, illustrated by Gary Clement



A Porcupine in a Pine Tree
A Canadian 12 Days of Christmas
Written by Helaine Becker, illustrated by Werner Zimmerman



This Little Snowman
A Touch & Feel Book
Written & illustrated by Ingela P. Arrhenius



Winter is Wonderful
Written & illustrated by Emma Dodd



The Littlest Christmas Tree
Written & illustrated by Jane Chapman



Here we go Round the Woodland Year
Written by Rachel Piercey, illustrated by Freya Hartas



Love
Written by Sophie Cashell, illustrated by Axel Scheffler



Peter Rabbit: Peter's Snowy Christmas
A Touch & Feel Book
Written by Beatrix Potter



The Christmas Quiet Book
Written by Deborah Underwood, illustrated by Renata Liwska



Can you Find it? Christmas with the Very Hungry Catterpillar
Written & illustrated by Eric Carle

Graphic Novels



The New Girl: First Crush
Cassandra Calin
Follow up to *The New Girl*, a story about crushing and being crushed, for fans of Guts by Raina Telgemeier.



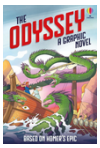
Lost Harbour
Mike Deas, Nancy Deas
In the village of Sueño Bay, famous for its magic and legends, a group of friends attempt to solve one of the island's local mysteries.



Front Desk
Kelly Yang, Fumio Obata
A lovely adaptation of Yang's modern classic *Front Desk*, the story of Mia Tang's immigration and pursuit of her dreams.



Max, a Little Axolotl: Breaking Out!
Joey Spiotto
A sweet story with themes of friendship, adventure and nature conservation.



The Odyssey: A Graphic Novel
Adapted by Russell Punter & Fabian Fiorin
Join Greek warrior Odysseus on his adventures in this dynamic graphic novel.

Middle Grade Fiction



Whale Fall
Elysia Rourke
The story of a young orca who dreams of becoming the matriarch of her pod but instead finds herself living a life in captivity. **Local author!**



The Heartwood Hotel
Kallie George, Stephanie Graegin
Courage, kindness, and adventure abound in this charming chapter book series.



The City of Lost Cats
Tanya Lloyd Kyi
A girl finds an abandoned house full of cats, just as it's scheduled for demolition. Can she save the house and its inhabitants?



Wilderness Hacks
Joslin Brorsen
Hatchet meets Survivor in this high-action, funny adventure in which two rival kids stranded in the wilderness must resolve their differences to make it out alive.



The Ginghams
T.C. Kemper
A mystery about a young girl who find the people of her town eerily *changed* after the arrival of the prim and proper Gingham family.

Raising Hare
Chloe Dalton
The true tale of an extraordinary friendship between the author and the orphaned hare she nurtured back to health.

Portly the Otter
M.G. Leonard, Polly Dunbar
Follow the adventures of young otter Portly, and all your favourite characters from the countryside classic *The Wind in the Willows*.

Narnia
C.S. Lewis
Give the gift of Narnia with this deluxe hardcover edition of the one of the most-beloved, classic and epic fantasy books of all time

The Neverfear
Katherine Rundell
The third book in the best-selling *Impossible Creatures* series. Join Christopher and Anya on their next daring adventures in the magical Archipelago!

The Magic Library of Waterfall Way
Julie Abe
In this cozy fantasy, an ordinary girl with a remarkable destiny must save a magic library to find her forever home.

Young Adult Fiction

Wondrous
Heather Fawcett
A teenaged Alice returns to Wonderland and discovers that she may not be the main character she thought she was...

Lying, Stealing and Other Ways to Save The Planet
Curtis Campbell
A hilarious novel about coming of age in the shadow of climate change.

Trust Fall
Lynn Painter
A rags-to-riches rom-com about a small-town girl who moves to NYC and meets a big-city boy hiding an explosive secret.

The Sixth Faction
Veronica Roth
Step into a bold new reimagining of the Divergent series from #1 New York Times bestselling author Veronica Roth.

Dangerous Impulses
Jennifer Lynn Barnes
The Naturals are back! The highly anticipated new installment in Barnes' beloved *Naturals* series.